



City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Department of Planning and Development

Diane M. Sugimura, Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Councilmember Peter Steinbrueck, Chair, UD&P Committee
Councilmember Richard Conlin
Councilmember Tom Rasmussen

FROM: Diane M. Sugimura

DATE: August 4, 2004

SUBJECT: DPD Monthly Update, August 11, 2004 Committee Meeting

Enforcement:

Follow-up on Judgments: Last month you inquired about the types of violations that resulted in the judgments in 2004. Since we reported last month, we now have judgments on seven cases. Five were default judgments when no one responded to the lawsuit, or they responded, but did not comply with requirements. These judgments were for:

- Demolishing house without permit
- Building retaining wall more than four feet high without permit
- Grading more than 25 cubic yards in an ECA without grading permit
- Storing of junk and heavy equipment outdoors
- Violating weeds and junk storage standards
- Constructing addition without permit

Community Workshop: In response to a request from a Highland Park resident, our Property Owners/Tenant Assistance (PO/TA) unit met with several community representatives to plan tenant outreach workshops for the area. The meeting, which was coordinated by PO/TA and the White Center Community Development Association (WCCDA) included representatives of the Seattle Neighborhood Group, Weed & Seed and SW Neighborhood Service Center. Two particular buildings were identified as serious problems for the neighborhood, both with long histories of prostitution, drug dealing, assault and numerous code violations. The group requested assistance with identifying City resources to address the problem systemically. In addition PO/TA staff will be

working with the WCCDA to provide general tenant outreach workshops for the community, particularly those for whom English is a second language.

Kudos to Amgen on Their Mode Split Stats:

I recently learned of Amgen's very impressive commute trip stats. When their offices were in the downtown core, 65% of the employees commuted by non-SOV. Recognizing that their new campus at Pier 89 was more remote from a transportation perspective, the Master Use Permit for the new campus required 55% non-SOV, increasing to 65% within five years. The good news is that they are already at 65% within three months of their move-in! They conducted a number of focus group sessions with staff to learn what was needed to help them meet their goal. They provide services such as shuttle bus service from downtown (ferry and bus riders), enclosed (not just covered) bike storage, and once a week bike maintenance service for regular bicyclists. They hope to have the street car extended to their site someday. And, even though one sees a sea of surface parking at this time (parking garage not yet constructed), they charge their employees for parking! I believe this is one of the keys to their successful numbers.

Biotech Amendments:

We are behind schedule on this one due to unanticipated resource demands for projects such as Northgate Stakeholders and the extensive public process needed for the housing strategies work in the various neighborhoods. We now have some time to work on this. We anticipate a draft ordinance available for public review in about a month.

Seattle Planning Commission:

July 22, 2004 was declared Marty Curry Day! It was a fitting tribute to her years of high quality service to the City and the city. Marty is now doing some consulting work on a part time basis, helping us develop a guide to public involvement and an inventory of tools. We want to capture some of those skills and knowledge before she completely leaves the department!

The hiring process for an Executive Director continues.

Assistance from Interns:

DPD is pleased to have the services of eight college interns this summer. They are highly skilled, enthusiastic and are a great resource for the department. Most are in graduate programs at the UW; one will be returning to NYC and Columbia University in the fall. They bring a wealth of backgrounds, experiences and interests.

Technology Improvements:

DPD recently rolled out an electronic document management system for the department's Site Team. This system allows staff to quickly retrieve digital versions of documents from a central repository, reducing search time and

minimizing the need for multiple individuals to keep paper copies of documents. These documents are retrievable by address or project number. Every month, we receive about 2000 hard copy pages, which are scanned into the system. The result is that about 800 documents a month are added to the system.